

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 1 and 11-20 have been amended to more clearly define the invention.

In the Office Action, claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 USC 101 as being non-statutory subject matter. Claim 11 has been amended so that it is clear that "A database that is stored and executed on at least one computer" is a major part of the present catalog. On pages 4 and 5 of the Action, it is stated that "When functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases since use of technology permits the function of the descriptive material to be realized." In this case, Applicants electronic publication is "recorded on some computer-readable medium", specifically a database that is stored and executed on at least one computer. It is therefore believed that this rejection has been overcome.

Also in the Office Action: claims 1-5, 8-9, 11-15, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over by PTO 892 Reference U ("Craig's List"), in view of US Patent Application Publication No. 2001/002973 to Yamaoka, et al. ("Yamaoka"); claims 6 and 16 were rejected for obviousness over Craig's List and Yamaoka, and further in view of PTO 892 Reference V ("Net News"); claims 7 and 17 were rejected for obviousness over Craig's List and Yamaoka, and further in view of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0007324 to Centner, et al. ("Centner"); and, claims 10 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Craig's List and Yamaoka, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,727,156 issued to Herr-Hoyman, et al. ("Herr"). These rejections are deemed moot in view of the present amendment. However, a survey of the cited art and applicant's invention is provided below.

The present invention discloses an electronic bulletin board that is dedicated to a single organization. The bulletin board allows the organization to publish all of its requirements so that producers, service providers and other "vendors" can view the organization's requirements. The requirements listed in the present solicitation bulletin board are those of one single organization, meaning the same organization purchases every item listed in the bulletin board. No fee is

charged for listing requirements in the present publication, as the buyer/organization also administers the bulletin board. There is no third party involved. Further, no members of the public are allowed to post listings in the present publication. Every item in every category listed in the catalog is a requirement of the same buyer (a.k.a. organization). Moreover, all forms and information necessary to conduct business with the organization are included in the publication.

Amended claim 1, for example, recites "electronically publishing an organization's requirements in an electronic publication that provides vendors with information needed to business with the organization comprising the steps of: categorizing the organization's requirements wherein each category includes one or more items required by the organization, publishing the organization's requirements in a publication that is dedicated to the organization posting all forms and information necessary for the vendor in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors wherein the forms and the registration section are included in the electronic publication."

Craig's List teaches an electronic version of the classified advertisements (hereinafter "ads" or "ad"). Members of the public place ads in Craig's List, just as they would in the classified ad section of their local newspaper. However, instead of their ad being published in the local paper, the ad is published on the Internet, in the Craig's List website. The website is divided into categories, just as the classified ad section of the paper. Since Craig's List publishes ads that are placed by the public, there are different buyers and sellers for every item listed in the publication. In a classic buyer-seller relationship, Craig's List is a middleman, or 3rd party, that serves the needs of many sellers and many buyers. The third party facilitator provided by Craig's List is not needed in the present electronic bulletin board.

On page 6 of the Action, the Examiner states that "PTO 892 U teaches: categorizing the buyer's requirements into categories..." What Craig's List actually teaches is categorizing buyers' requirements into categories. Craig's List is available to an unlimited number of buyers, and is not dedicated to one buyer (organization).

Craig's List fails to disclose electronically publishing an organization's requirements in an

electronic publication that provides vendors with information needed to business with the organization comprising the steps of: categorizing the organization's requirements wherein each category includes one or more items required by the organization, publishing the organization's requirements in a publication that is dedicated to the organization posting all forms and information necessary for the vendor in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors wherein the forms and the registration section are included in the electronic publication.

Yamaoka teaches a database of parts and suppliers for a company. See Abstract. The database allows employees to find the exact part that is needed and the preferred supplier for procuring the part. See paragraphs 0008, 0013 and 0014. Since the suppliers for the parts are listed in the database of Yamaoka, there is no need to publish the company's requirements.

Yamaoka fails to disclose electronically publishing an organization's requirements in an electronic publication that provides vendors with information needed to business with the organization comprising the steps of: categorizing the organization's requirements wherein each category includes one or more items required by the organization, publishing the organization's requirements in a publication that is dedicated to the organization posting all forms and information necessary for the vendor in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors wherein the forms and the registration section are included in the electronic publication.

Net News teaches an on-line auction website, similar to e-bay, that is available to the public. Both, buyers and sellers are required to register with the website, if they want to conduct business in Net News. The needs of thousands of buyers are met by the service provided in Net News. Further, the multiple buyers in Net News are responding to items listed for sale, not for purchase, in the publication. Net News teaches away from the present invention by requiring registration of both buyers and sellers. Registration of buyers is not an issue in the present invention, as there is only one buyer, the organization. Net News is another 3rd party in the buyer-seller relationship. There is no 3rd party involved in the present system.

Net News fails to disclose electronically publishing an organization's requirements in an electronic publication that provides vendors with information needed to business with the organization comprising the steps of: categorizing the organization's requirements wherein each category includes one or more items required by the organization, publishing the organization's requirements in a publication that is dedicated to the organization posting all forms and information necessary for the vendor in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors wherein the forms and the registration section are included in the electronic publication.

Centner teaches a web-based service for buyers and sellers. The buyers set up accounts with the Centner service and each account includes a list of preferred suppliers. Posted listings from the buyers are sent out directly to the preferred suppliers associated with each buyer. The buyers' accounts are stored on Centner service hardware, and the Centner service is responsible for administration of the accounts. Thus, access to the accounts is not limited to the buyers. Centner represents another system wherein a 3rd party, or middleman, must be involved in the buyer-seller relationship.

Centner fails to disclose electronically publishing an organization's requirements in an electronic publication that provides vendors with information needed to business with the organization comprising the steps of: categorizing the organization's requirements wherein each category includes one or more items required by the organization, publishing the organization's requirements in a publication that is dedicated to the organization posting all forms and information necessary for the vendor in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors wherein the forms and the registration section are included in the electronic publication.

Hcrr teaches a simple method for protecting hypertext documents once they have been uploaded to a server and made available to others via the Internet. The method involves the use of a unique identifier, and subsequent password, that are given to a document's author. Subsequent access to the document, for modification purposes, can only be obtained with the

author's password.

Herr fails to disclose electronically publishing an organization's requirements in an electronic publication that provides vendors with information needed to business with the organization comprising the steps of: categorizing the organization's requirements wherein each category includes one or more items required by the organization, publishing the organization's requirements in a publication that is dedicated to the organization posting all forms and information necessary for the vendor in a format that allows editing of the forms by the vendors wherein the forms and the registration section are included in the electronic publication.

The teachings of Yamaoka, Net News, Centner and Herr do not make up for the deficiencies of Craig's List. None of the references teach an electronic publication that is dedicated to a single organization, wherein every category includes requirements of the same organization. The combination of Craig's List, Yamaoka, Net News, Centner and Herr due not teach, and in fact teach away from, the present system, as is recited in amended claim 1. For all of the above reasons, claim 1 is considered allowable over any combination of Craig's List, Yamaoka, Net News, Centner and Herr. Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1 and are considered allowable for at least the same reasons. Claim 11 recites similar features as claim 1 and is considered allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 12-20 depend from claim 11 and are considered allowable for at least the same reasons.

All claims being allowable, a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If any questions remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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